

**Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners  
Minutes of Meeting Held On November 13, 2018**

The Governor's Advisory Council on English Learners held a meeting on November 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Delaware Department of Education, Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street, Dover, DE 19901.

The following Council members were present: Guy Danjoint, Javier Torrijos, Michael Rodriguez, Terri Sharpe, Heather Cramer, John Marinucci, Ana Viscarra-Gikas, Steven Amendum, Bridget Amory, Allison Burris Castellanos, Oribel McFann, Brody Bluemel, Robert Rescigno, Senator David Sokola and Ennio Zaragoza.

The following Council members were absent: Valentina Maza, Rep. Sean Matthews, Dusty Blakey, Clara Martinez, Maria Matos, Margie Lopez-Waite and Georges Odaris

The following individuals were also present: Maria Paxson, Jose Aviles, Elidan Zaragoza, several students from Delaware State University.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

At 6:00 p.m., Guy Danjoint called the meeting to order.

The meeting began with introductions of new members Ennio Zaragoza, representing the business community and Brody Bluemel, representing Delaware State University.

**2. Review and Approval of October 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Guy Danjoint directed Council members to review meeting minutes. No changes were requested.

A motion was made by John Marinucci and seconded by Steven Amendum for approval of the October meeting minutes with the corrections. The motion carried unanimously and meeting minutes were approved.

**3. Summary of Prior Meetings & Moving Forward**

Council co-chair, Javier Torrijos reviewed the prior meetings focus areas; federal and state regulations and school funding. Javier reminded the Council members to remain focused on clear recommendations to continue to meet the plan as the year comes to an end.

**4. 2019 Advisory Council & Subcommittee Meeting Dates**

Javier Torrijos presented the 2019 Advisory Council meeting dates to the Council.

**5. Subcommittee Presentations & Key Priorities**

Steven Amendum from the University of Delaware presented to the council regarding the meeting held for subcommittee 1. The subcommittee met immediately proceeded the full Council meeting and the chairs, Bridget Amory and Steven Amendum are still compiling initial feedback. Discussions from the subcommittee include addressing the awareness and knowledge among administrators and using current structures/organizations to meet the needs of English learners. Bridget Amory expanded upon the recommendations to include the need to address the needs of school counselors during annual conference on how to best support English learners. The subcommittee is considering the exploration TESOL chapter in the state. A discussion occurred that it is important to focus on leveraging the existing work going on in the state in a more systematic way. Robert Rescigno added that one of the benefits of the council is to allow for the collaboration across various groups.

Robert Rescigno presented on the work accomplished during the meeting of the second subcommittee. Robert requested that recommendation be made in the annual report that a formal assessment of current services occurs to determine if there is a gap between requirements and services. This report will then be used to support the need for additional funding. Heather Cramer expressed to the council that there is a need to contact legislature and share the funding need. Ennio Zaragoza shared that the business community would be able to provide additional funding and support non-profits working towards this need. John Marrinucci shared that the School Board Association legislative priorities include anything that supports increased funding for English learners. Senator Sokola shared that one thing that would be helpful would be to not silo all of our funding. Spoke on the current lawsuit and his desire to move towards a student-based funding system. “Good education is not done in silos.” Spoke about results from Utah on NAEP and supplementing what teachers are doing with technology through individualized programs (statewide).

Javier Torrijos shared the work of subcommittee three and the short term/long-term goals of the subcommittee. Steven Amendum made a caution to make sure that as a council we are cautious with recommendations to ensure that they are evidence-based and to be careful with the promotion of any business. Adult education programs were recommended to be used as a model regarding data tracking. Dr. Betsy Jones was suggested as a potential partner from PolyTech.

Oribel presented the work of subcommittee four. It was shared that subcommittee four will initially concentrate on strategy 4.3 A of Delaware’s English Learner Strategic Plan and develop a recognition program of districts to shine the light on what is going well. The subcommittee will do the research and support for an anticipated implementation by Fall of 2019. The subcommittee also will be advising the DDOE on the development of an annual EL data report.

## **6. Governor’s Report**

A review of the draft report was shared with the council. Each subcommittee lead will send in writing the final recommendations for inclusion in the report to be sent to the Governor, Secretary of Education and the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees no later than December 1.

A decision was made to not make recommendations for anything in which the group doesn't have consensus.

## **6. Public Comments**

Students from Delaware State University shared their perspective. Jose Aviles thanked the group for their important work.

## **7. Preparation for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

At 8:00 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street in Dover.